

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen. So nice to have all of you here today, at this Prayer Breakfast. This is not going to be a ritualistic type of service or speech but yet a time for us to gather together to reflect on a very vital aspect of each and everyone of our lives - the Spiritual aspect. Although many of us here today come from different backgrounds, states and surroundings and possess a variety of skills we all share one common belief - that God is.

Today our nation is plagued with scandals, reports of wrong doing by man, killing of innocent people on the Streets of our cities not to mention shortages of everything from coffee to telephone poles. As we look back over history the nation then was hit with scandals, violence and shortages of one kind and another, but yet they perservered.

With the confusion of recent years as well as the turmoil we seem to be in today one might question that belief. It is ironic that upon ending the longest war in our history and hoping for a real peace that we are plunged into more devastating chaos and discontent.

Let us not live in the past; for to do so would cause us to miss the present and to do that would endanger the future, not only ours but the next generation's as well. Many times during our lives each of us will make mistakes; let us not let that mistake be a stumbling block in the future; yet let's learn from history not only our own but also generations before us. I feel the scandals and violence

can be of great value to our country as well as to the individual. For one, a higher degree of honesty will evolve due to so much dishonesty or acts of suspicious nature have come to light years after they were committed. Secondly, I believe people will question their motives on pending action before really acting on it; analyzing the problem more closely, looking at all the alternatives and the possible outcome. A higher priority will be put on personal integrity rather on the theory "go along with the crowd."

This comes at an appropriate time when the modern Navy the All Volunteer Force, and more emphasis on personalization in specialized trades take a front seat both in the military and in the civilian areas. What is needed is another great awakening to the vital essence of life. This nation was founded on the belief and exercise of prayer. The Constitution of the United States was written with God's word as a guide, as was the UCMJ and most Church covenants. The foundation of our very government is deeply rooted in the belief that there is a God and that we the people may exercise this belief as we see fit. Let us therefore not neglect nor abuse such an inalienable right and privilege but yet let us go forth in everything that we do tackling that task with which we have been endowed to the best of our ability; remaining steadfast in our convictions, holding fast to the morals of our forefathers and to renew our own personal beliefs of so long ago. "Whosoever shall humble himself shall be exalted". We need to humble ourselves

and seek His guidance in all matters of life no matter how large or small; complicated or simple.

Let each of us set an example for others to follow. Twelve men decided years ago to set an example at the encouragement of one individual and now that number reaches in the millions. Don't wait for others to make the first move because they may well be waiting on you. Our forefathers went through a lot worse than we're going through today and because of their faith and belief they helped build the foundation upon which we stand today. It has survived scandals, assassinations and its' share of wars. We have a lot to be proud of and we need not hang our heads in shame.

If this confusion is closing in on us just remember it could be worse we could be prohibited from exercising our belief and right as a free people. We shall continue to be a strong people, nation and individual as long as we continue to exercise the belief that God is.